

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01

FEAE-00 AGR-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SAJ-01 INT-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9595

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, UR

SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING TO DISCUSS FIRST QUARTER  
PLAN RESULTS

REF: MOSCOW 5523

1. APRIL 24 PRAVDA REPORTS MEETING OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,  
PRESIDED OVER BY KOSYGIN, HELD PREVIOUS DAY. SPEECH BY  
KOSYGIN APPARENTLY CONTAINED SHARP CRITICISM OF INDUSTRIAL  
MINISTRIES AND CONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATIONS FOR LACKADAISICAL  
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PERFORMANCE DURING FIRST QUARTER (SEE REFTEL). ARTICLE ALSO

CONTAINS TWO STATISTICS NOT PUBLISHED IN EARLIER CENTRAL  
STATISTICAL ADMINISTRATION QUARTERLY REPORT: AVERAGE MONTHLY  
WAGE FOR WORKERS ROSE BY 3.4 PERCENT (PRESUMABLY ON ANNUAL  
BASIS), AND 6.5 MILLION SQUARE METERS OF HOUSING SPACE WERE  
COMPLETED DURING PERIOD.

2. SHORTCOMINGS FOR WHICH ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS WERE SUBJECTED  
TO CRITICISM IN KOSYGIN SPEECH INCLUDED: INEFFICIENT UTILIZATION  
OF PRODUCTIVE CAPACITIES (WITH RESULTANT SLOWDOWN OF GROWTH  
IN PRODUCTION OUTPUT); UNDERFULFILLMENT OF PLAN GOALS FOR  
COMPLETING NEW CONSTRUCTION; DELAYS IN ASSIMILATION OF NEW  
TECHNOLOGY; AND INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO ASSORTMENT AND QUALITY  
OF PRODUCTION.

3. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DEMANDED (POTREBOVAL) THAT MINISTRIES  
AND ORGANIZATIONS, "BEING GUIDED BY THE DECISIONS OF THE APRIL,  
1975, CPSU PLENUM," ANALYZE RESULTS OF FIRST QUARTER PERFORMANCE  
AND FOCUS ATTENTION OF SUBORDINATE ENTERPRISES ON FULFILLMENT  
AND OVERFULFILLMENT OF ANNUAL PLAN GOALS. ATTENTION OF  
ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS WAS ALSO DIRECTED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
TO ATTAINING "SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT" IN CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION,  
ESPECIALLY IN COMPLETING AND BRINGING ON STREAM PRODUCTION  
CAPACITIES IN NEW ENTERPRISES. FURTHER, MINISTRIES WERE INSTRUCTED  
TO BRING UNDER "PARTICULAR CONTROL" FULFILLMENT OF PLAN GOALS  
FOR PRODUCTION AND DELIVERY TO AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF TRACTORS,  
COMBINES, OTHER AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY, SPARE PARTS,  
FERTILIZERS, AND FUELS IN ORDER TO ASSURE SUCCESSFUL HARVEST  
THIS YEAR. FINALLY, DIRECTIVE WAS ISSUED FOR MINISTRIES TO  
UNDERTAKE "ADDITIONAL MEASURES" FOR ASSURING FULFILLMENT OF  
TARGETS IN PRODUCTION OF CONSUMER GOODS.

4. COMMENT TONE OF PRAVDA ARTICLE LEAVES LITTLE DOUBT THAT  
KOSYGIN AND COLLEAGUES ARE UNHAPPY WITH ECONOMY'S PERFORMANCE  
IN FIRST QUARTER OF "CONCLUSIVE YEAR" OF NINTH FIVE YEAR PLAN.  
AS POINTED OUT IN PARA. 5 OF REFTEL, PRODUCTION OF MANY KEY  
COMMODITIES WILL HAVE TO STEP UP AS YEAR PROGRSSSES IN ORDER  
TO MEET EVEN REDUCED TARGETS FOR YEAR SET LAST DECEMBER.  
FULLER USE OF EXISTING CAPACITIES AND RAW MATERIALS AND MORE TIMELY  
COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS APPARENTLY REMAIN FOCAL  
POINTS OF PARTY CONCERN OVER LETHARGIC ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE, AS  
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IS IMPLIED BY REFERENCE TO ECONOMIC DECISIONS TAKEN AT RECENT  
PLENUM. BAREST POSSIBLE REFERENCE TO ECONOMIC TOPICS WAS MADE  
IN SOVIET PRESS AT TIME OF PLENUM, AND IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT  
THIS WAS FATEFUL "ECONOMIC PLENUM" WHICH HAS LONG BEEN RUMORED  
TO BE IN THE WORKS. NONETHELESS, THE INESCAPABLE FACT IS THAT  
LONG-STANDING HIGH-LEVEL DISSATISFACTION WITH ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE  
HAS NOT BEEN ASSURAGED BY REPORTS ON 1975 FIRST QUARTER  
ACHIEVEMENTS.

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